

**BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT (BSEE)**  
**CONTINGENCY PLAN**  
**September 2017**  
**For Use in the Event of**  
**An Orderly Shutdown of the U.S. Government**

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) regulates and enforces the responsible development of energy and mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf to protect the environment, and enhance safety. The Headquarters office for BSEE is in the Main Interior Building in Washington, DC, with technical and administrative support offices in Sterling, VA, and regional offices in New Orleans, LA (Gulf of Mexico Region), Camarillo, CA (Pacific Region), and Anchorage, AK (Alaska Region).

The Bureau will continue critical permitting and oversight activities associated with energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf. These oversight functions are necessary to protect workers and conserve natural resources. Based on previous planning, approximately 50% of the 874 Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement employees could be retained and designated as exempt as their salaries would be funded from non-lapsing funds. However, actual numbers exempted will depend on the priorities of the Director and the Secretary at the time of a shut-down. Should an extended shutdown occur, exhausting current funding sources, all of the exempt personnel would be designated as excepted as they are essential for life and safety.

The major on-going activities that would continue include the review of documents in support of permitting and inspecting offshore oil and gas operations. BSEE would continue to receive and process applications for drilling permits and other offshore permits. Routine and emergency inspections would continue to be performed. These ongoing major activities will require on-going management and administrative support, as well as support from the DOI Solicitor's Office, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue.

During the shutdown, BSEE will continue to perform permitting and enforcement functions. This will allow the bureau to continue to support exploration and development of energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Drilling and Production Safety is critical to the conduct of safe drilling operations by industry. BSEE will have personnel available to oversee drilling and production operations. They will continue to process applications for new permits to drill and they will perform routine inspections and inspections needed to begin new drilling activities. They will consider permit modifications on a case-by-case basis and will respond to requests for permit modifications that are needed to ensure drilling safety and occupational health and safety. Environmental planning needed to prepare on-going National Environmental Policy Act compliance documents would continue. The permitting and enforcement activities that continue would allow industry to function during a government shutdown. These ongoing major activities will require support from the Department of the Interior Solicitor's Office, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue. These efforts have been coordinated and are addressed by these entities in their contingency planning.

Activities that support permitting and enforcement such as Administration and Budget would also continue on an as needed basis. Investigations would also continue on an as needed basis. Contracting officers will be retained to process essential contracting actions. Personnel associated with human resources will notify employees who are furloughed, secure personnel records, and call back personnel as

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needed during the shutdown and when the government shutdown ends. Computer and information technology personnel will maintain equipment and electronic data in support of BSEE, BOEM and ONRR (through shared service agreements). Facilities staff will be retained to manage the day to day operations of facilities remaining open for retained staff.

**Designation of Funded Programs/Activities**

<b>Essential Activity</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Justification for Essential Designation</b>
Drilling and Production Safety	Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs	To perform regulatory and permit oversight
Contract Services	Administration and Budget	To manage essential contracts.
Personnel Functions	Administration and Budget	To maintain personnel functions related to time and attendance, pay, and benefits. To inform personnel of the shutdown, furlough status, and notice to return to work.
Computer Operations	Administration and Budget	To maintain critical equipment and support applications.
Building and Property Security	Administration and Budget	To protect government assets.
Inspections	Regional Office	To ensure the safety of ongoing operations.
Permitting	Regional Office	To ensure operational safety, occupational health, and environmental protection.
Environmental Compliance	Regional Office	To determine environmental consequences and mitigation of proposed actions.

Basis for the plan:

These functions are needed to maintain security and communication within the Bureau and to ensure the safety of ongoing operations.

1. Number of full time employees in BSEE: 874
2. Number of exempt employees: TBD\*
3. Number of excepted employees: TBD\*
4. Number of employees on furlough in the event of a shutdown: TBD

\* This number will be determined at the time of a shutdown, depending on the priorities of the Director and Secretary at the time of shutdown. Should an extended shutdown occur, exhausting current non-appropriated funding sources, all of the exempt personnel would be designated as excepted as they are essential for life and safety.